

Where Do I Have To Put These CO Alarms?

In most residences, carbon monoxide alarms are required to be located on every level of a home or dwelling unit including habitable portions of basements and attics. On levels with sleeping areas the alarms must be placed within ten feet of the bedroom doors.

CO alarms do not go inside garages.

When Do I Have to Install CO Alarms?

Most residences are required to install CO alarms by March 31, 2006. After that date anyone who sells their property will be required to have an inspection by the fire department prior to the sale or transfer of their property.

Why Do I Have To Do This?

Carbon monoxide (CO), known as the *Invisible Killer*, is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that results from incomplete burning of fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil, wood, coal, and gasoline. Each year many people die from accidental CO poisoning and thousands more are injured. This law was passed to protect all of us from the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

How Do I Meet the Requirements of the Law?

If you install CO alarms on every habitable level by March 31, 2006 and keep them in good working order you don't have to do anything else to be in compliance with the law. When you sell your home, you must have an inspection and certificate from the local fire department that the CO alarms meet the code requirements before the sale is final. Contact your local fire department directly – they will know what to do to assist you.

How Do I Know if I Have CO Poisoning?

The first symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

If you think you have symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning or your CO alarm is sounding, contact your fire department and leave the building immediately.

For more information about the requirements of the law contact your local fire department or visit the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services website at www.mass.gov/dfs.

Consumer's Guide

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Requirements for

Carbon Monoxide Alarms



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